

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

Additional Marabou colony in Kenya

In his review of the status of the Marabou *Leptoptilos crumeniferus* in Kenya, Pomeroy (1986) stated that "...there could still be undiscovered colonies but they are likely to be small...". Such a colony was found in September 1986 on an island in the Tana Eiver at Karura (0°42'S, 37°54'E).

The colony, in three or four tall trees bordering the river, contained at least 12 occupied nests. Whilst birds appeared to be still incubating on two nests, almost fully-fledged young stood on five nests. The colony composition on 20 September viewed from approximately 100 m appeared to be as follows:

Number and stage of development of nestlings	Number of nests
Birds still incubating	2
Single downy chick	2
Two downy chicks	2
Single intermediately-developed chick	1
Single well-developed chick	1
Two well-developed chicks	4

A pair of Palmnut Vultures *Gypohierax angolensis* were also of interest and were probably nesting in a palm within 50 m of the stork colony.

Unfortunately, this colony of Marabou—which the local people describe as having been there "as long as we can remember"—is no sooner discovered than it is doomed: the colony is located within the reservoir area for the new dam for the Kiambere hydro-electric scheme and bush-clearing is well advanced and has to be completed before impounding of the reservoir begins in 1987. It remains to be seen whether the colony will re-locate somewhere on the upper Tana.

Reference

POMEROY, D.E. 1986. The Marabou in Kenya. *Scopus* 10: 1-9.

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Raptor counts in Kenya, 1973 and 1983

During bird watching trips in Kenya in 1973 and 1983, counts were made of raptors seen while travelling by car. A comparison of the data for the two years suggests that some marked changes in abundance of some species may have occurred. The results are presented here and comparison is made with data given by Brown (1970).

Methods

Observations were made between 8 and 17 January 1973 and between 6 and 17 February 1983. Counts were made from moving vehicles by up to four observers in 1973 and up to three observers in 1983. Counts of vultures were not made consistently and have therefore been excluded from this analysis. Details of the routes over which counts were made are given in Appendix 1. The circumstances of the observations varied between relatively fast motoring on metalled roads (when it was sometimes impossible to stop to check identifications) to slow cruising in game